

Submitter: Claudia Mendez
On Behalf Of: HB 2997
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

My name is Claudia, and I am a proud first-generation college graduate. I owe much of my success to the unwavering support and opportunities provided by the TRIO programs, particularly through the guidance my TRIO advisors.

As a first-generation student, navigating the complexities of higher education was daunting. I often felt overwhelmed and unsure of my path. However, TRIO programs were there to support me every step of the way. Their dedication and personalized guidance helped me understand the college application process, secure financial aid, and develop effective study habits.

Through TRIO, I had access to invaluable resources such as tutoring, academic workshops, and career counseling. These resources not only enhanced my academic performance but also boosted my confidence. The sense of community within TRIO made me feel like I belonged and that I had a network of people who genuinely cared about my success.

One of the most significant opportunities TRIO provided was the chance to participate in internships and leadership programs. These experiences were crucial in shaping my career aspirations and giving me the practical skills needed to succeed in the workforce. Without TRIO, I would not have had these opportunities, which were instrumental in my journey to obtaining a bachelor's degree.

TRIO funding is essential for students like me who face unique challenges in pursuing higher education. The support I received through TRIO was not just academic; it was holistic, addressing my personal and professional development. Legislators need to understand that TRIO programs are a lifeline for first-generation students, providing the tools and support necessary to achieve their dreams.

I urge you to continue funding TRIO programs so that future generations of students can benefit from the same opportunities and support that helped me graduate from university and achieve my goals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Claudia Mendez

